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News Release ~ Communiqué

Manley and Dupuy lead as Canada advances to the G7 Information Society Conference

OTTAWA, February 9, 1995 -- Industry Minister John Manley and Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy will lead a Canadian delegation to the G7 Information Society Ministerial Conference taking place in Brussels, Belgium on February 24 to 26. Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development) Dr. Jon Gerrard will also participate.

Last summer, the G7 heads of state and government agreed at their meeting in Italy to convene a conference of relevant ministers to focus on the new technologies leading to the development of an open, competitive and integrated worldwide information infrastructure. The goal of Ministers Manley and Dupuy is to ensure that Canadians, in all parts of the country, benefit as we move towards the information society, and to secure Canada's position at the forefront of the communications revolution.

The G7 countries (the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Canada) and the European Commission believe that the convergence of informatics and communications will have as much impact today as the industrial revolution had in the 19th century.

Hosted by the European Commission, the Ministerial Conference marks the first time that G7 representatives address the economic, social and technical issues arising from the growth of new technologies. It is also the first G7 conference to have participation by industrial leaders from the member countries. Leaders of Canada's communications industry, who will play a pivotal role at the G7 Information Society Conference are:

L. R. Wilson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of BCE Inc., representing the Canadian telecommunications carriage, manufacturing and R&D industry, and official Canadian lead discussant at the Round Table Session; Charles Sirois, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Teleglobe Inc., the Canadian international telecommunications carrier; André Chagnon, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Le Groupe Vidéotron Ltée, representing the Canadian cable industry; and I. H. Asper, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, CanWest Global Communications Corp., representing Canadian off-air broadcasting and related industries.

The European Commission is also organizing a demonstration showcase of state-of-the art communications technologies to complement the deliberations at the conference itself. Ministers Manley and Dupuy said that while planning by the European host is still underway, it is understood that Canada has succeeded in having some 20 projects included in the three-day event. These projects involve firms and institutions from all regions of Canada.

The Ministers also indicated that some details about the Information Society conference are already available on the Internet and that further information will be placed on the Internet so that it can be widely accessed. The Internet address is: <http://debra.dgbit.doc.ca/isc/g7/g7.html>. The information can also be accessed by modem through Industry Canada Online at 1-800-507-7456.

For more information, please contact:

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(Note: Journalists interested in attending the event must be accredited by the host [European Commission].
Contact Leslie Fulton (613-724-5946) or Gilles Corriveau (514-982-0308) for information on the process.)
